

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended, *supra*, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 12 has been cancelled, *supra*, without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter. Additional support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the originally filed specification at, e.g., page 4, lines 14-19 and page 5, lines 14-16.

No new matter has been added.

The Office stated on page 5 of the Office Action that "[c]laims 2-7, 12-20 and 24 are objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim." Applicant understand that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Related art rejections

1. The 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 21-23 in view of EP 0 489 693 ("*Linder*") has been obviated by amendment. Claim 1 has been amended, *supra*, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 1 is allowable over the reference cited against the claims for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. The 35 USC § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 in view of US 6,346,570 ("*Kazuyuki*") has been obviated by amendment. Claim 1 has been amended, *supra*, to include the limitations of claim 12. Claim 1 is allowable over the reference cited against the claims for the same reasons claim 12 is allowable.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Request for Rejoinder

MPEP § 821.04 states: "In order to be eligible for rejoinder, a claim to a nonelected invention must depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable claim." Applicants note that withdrawn claims 8-11 depend from *and* contain all the limitations of claim 1. Rejoinder is therefore appropriate and Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 8-11.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully suggest that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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